

# **MARCHING ONE BY ONE**

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(Final Draft) (God-willing.)

## **DAWN**

The colony is fairly dark and faceless, with a huge mall in the middle and a platform raised above it as the only distinguishing features. A huge mass of ants are gathered on the mall, murmuring excitedly.

Suddenly, the lights go up on the platform. Cheers arise from the crowd, as DORR walks up. He makes a "quiet" gesture.

DORR

My fellow ants, of colony HG714. This is the moment we've all been working towards!

More cheering. Dorr waits for it to settle down.

DORR

For hundreds of years, we have been toiling away, working to make this project a success. It hasn't been easy, but now, in the year 2005, our dreams will be realized! Still, I'm sure you didn't all come here to see me blather on, right?

Even more cheering. Dorr makes another quiet gesture.

DORR

He is a leader so fearsome, he once killed a herd of lions with a wiggle of his antenna, yet he is also so loving, the warmth of his gentle embrace is warmer than the sun. He truly glows with the holy light of our Ant Lord, and the corpses of the ants he crawls upon so that he may not come in contact with the ground will surely be sent to Heaven just from his touch. But I've introduced him enough. The ant...the myth...His Holiness King Elnuk XI!

Super loud cheering. Dorr steps aside, and ELNUK walks to the front of the platform, clad in royal clothes. The screams of the ants he is crushing can be heard.

ELNUK

(quietly)

Stop complaining. You are irritating me.

ELNUK

Greetings and salutations, loyal subjects!

More cheering.

ELNUK

Kindly be quiet. I have many important things to talk about. For millennia, our great species have been slaves. Slaves...to the humans. They have trampled our ecosystem and built cities on our graveyards. We are so low to them, we must eat as food what they throw away as waste!

Who are they to control us? We ants have existed since the age of the dinosaurs. I would like to see a pathetic human stand up to the wrath of a Tyrannosaurus Rex.

Laughter throughout the crowd.

ELNUK

No, no, do not laugh! It is not right! Why must we be at the behest of these evolutionary newcomers? We are the superior species, and from today on, we will be treated like the superior species!

Applause.

ELNUK

You all stand before me as members of the colonial army. Not because enlistment is mandatory by law, though it is, but because you believe in this project, and you believe in the colony! Without you, this operation would be impossible!

Applause again.

ELNUK

Please, subside your applauding. I must explain our plan of attack.

With the tireless research of our ant scientists, studying their ways, we have created a device that can hijack the brains of a human. An ant merely needs to crawl into a human ear,

attach some electrodes to his or her body, activate the device, and instantly be in control of the human's thoughts and actions.

Usually, a high ranking ant general would use the device to initiate an attack. However, though I have had no training, as your king I will lead the charge in human form. Why? Because hijacking someone's brain is fucking awesome!

Great applause.

ELNUK

Subside! Yes, myself and my second in command, Dorr (gestures to Dorr), will control the two humans who govern the plot of land containing our colony...a mysterious room, known only as B357.

Once we are inside the humans, we will barricade B357 to all other intruders. Leading the glorious ant army, we shall create an impregnable defense that no man would dare test. After we close off the room, the remaining soldiers will kill the human overlords.

Cheers. At this point Elnuk just starts talking over the cheering.

ELNUK

Their corpses shall provide enough food to last for scores of generations, and we will finally live in freedom! The mission begins now! Farewell, for glory lies ahead!

The cheering gets really loud as Elnuk and Dorr walk off. Fade out, end scene.

## **8:00 AM**

Inside a typical double dorm room. Posters on the wall, desks, a TV. There is a rotting pile of food where the ants get supplies from, and their colony is under a bed. A single door that connects to the hall outside, that people can come in and out of.

There are two beds. In one bed, CAREY and ANNE are sleeping, snuggling together. In the other, SHANE is sleeping, tossing and

turning a bit.

Suddenly, Carey just jolts awake, as if he was never sleeping. Seconds later, Anne does the same thing. They get up, tentatively, testing out their new bodies. Carey looks around, then laughs.

CAREY

This is most excellent!

ANNE

Wow...we're huge! This is great!

Carey crouches down to look under the bed.

ANNE

Wait...why am I a chick? That wasn't part of the plan.

CAREY

That's unimportant right now! Come, look under here!

Anne crouches and looks under the bed.

ANNE

Hey, is that our colony?

CAREY

My entire kingdom, no larger than my foot! Why, in this form, I could crush it without a moment's pause! Just think of the awe inspiring power this size entails! I could control every colony for miles, from CR225 to XY687, and even ZS411---

ANNE

Please, your holiness, let's just keep our mind on the mission at hand.

CAREY

Don't be impudent, Dorr. Curses, I had hoped not to launch the mission while you were on the rag.

ANNE

What are you talking about? We're ants; our females don't menstruate!

CAREY

Well, now you're just being hysterical.

ANNE

I am not being hysterical!

Shane turns loudly in his sleep. Until now Carey and Anne didn't realize there was another person. They both scream.

ANNE

You didn't tell me there would be another human supervisor!

CAREY

There wasn't supposed to be! Our research showed that only 2 humans were assigned to each room.

ANNE

Well, I see three humans. Why was I here? And why were we sharing a bed?

They look at each other hard.

ANNE

Oh god!

CAREY

These apes are perverts. Why can't they just copulate with their queens like normal people? Nevertheless, violated as we may be, we must find a way to dispose of the human. We will not let our mission be compromised.

ANNE

Can we hijack his brain?

CAREY

No. Each brain hijacker runs on the soul-juice of 200,000 ants. We didn't have enough left to power another. Still, there must be another way, short of killing him, to make sure he doesn't interfere.

They both think about it for a while.

ANNE

I can't think of anything.

CAREY

Me neither, let's just kill him.

ANNE

Sounds like a plan. How should we do

it?

CAREY

Sever his thorax. The pain alone  
should send him into shock.

Anne picks up a broken bottle lying on the floor, next to Shane's  
bed, and starts sawing his ribcage.

CAREY

Yes...yes! Puny, foolish human!  
Cower before our unfathomable might!

Shane stirs, and wakes up. He sees Carey laughing menacingly,  
and Anne sawing away at him to no avail.

SHANE

Carey...Anne? What the fuck! What  
are you doing? It's 8:15 in the  
morning, you assholes!

CAREY

Saw harder, Dorr! He's getting testy!

ANNE

It's not doing anything! He seems to  
be invulnerable to attack!

Shane bolts up, and they jump back, Anne  
defensively holding the broken bottle.

SHANE

Have you both gone insane?? Look,  
shitheads, I don't know what kind of  
shit you're trying to pull, but it's  
way early in the fucking morning! I  
was up all last night studying for my  
math final, and I wanted to get two  
fucking hours of sleep in before I had  
to take the most important test of my  
life, and you and your little slut of  
a girlfriend get the bright idea to  
pull some sort of prank?? If you  
don't stop this bullshit soon I swear  
I'm gonna go to the housing office and  
get you kicked out of this fucking  
school! I need to sleep!

CAREY

Dorr, the thorax attack didn't work.  
Let's do something quickly before he  
alerts his superiors!

SHANE

How about you let me sleep!

ANNE

How about we cut off his head? If I had something sharper I could do it.

SHANE

All right, enough of this shit. I'm sleeping in the lounge.

Shane grabs a pillow and starts to walk out.

CAREY

There's no time for that! Quickly, grab him before he reveals our ingenious plan!

Anne grabs his feet and tackles him. She holds him down while Carey takes down the curtain and starts to tie him up, while all the while Shane is screaming obscenities. Fade out, end scene.

### **10:00 AM**

Shane is now tied to his bed tightly, with curtains. He keeps moaning every so often. Carey is pacing the room; Anne is nursing a cut on her hand.

ANNE

Ow...ow...ow! Ugh. Human---

SHANE

My name is Shane, Anne. Shane! I've known you for months!

ANNE

Yes, Shane. Was all the kicking and pulling really necessary? You pulled out a chunk of skin on my hand when you bit me, and it really smarts! Seriously..you humans, and your stupid nerve receptors.

SHANE

Anne, I swear this is the last time I let you in here. Your PMS I can deal with. Cleaning your pubic hair off of my bed when I leave for the weekend I can deal with. The plotting my death, a little harder to swallow. If my roommate wants to get his rocks off, he can do it in your room.



CAREY

Dorr, ignore the loud human. We must turn our thoughts towards more pressing matters, like shutting him up. How can we dispose of him, and move on with our mission?

ANNE

I say we just push him out the window. The four story drop probably won't kill him, considering he's been invulnerable to our attacks so far, but at least he'll be gone.

SHANE

You're insane!

CAREY

But what if he alerts higher authorities?

ANNE

By then we should have our defenses enabled.

CAREY

Very well then. You may proceed.

Anne moves to untie him.

SHANE

Jesus Christ, no!

CAREY

Linger a moment, Dorr. What if we could use him?

ANNE

Use him..like, as a weapon? Like, someone's approaching us, and they want to attack us for no reason, and I'm looking around and can't find a club or gun or anything to defend myself, but then Hey, there's a spare human! And, you know, I could just pick him up by the legs...

CAREY

Ummm...

ANNE

And hurl him at people, and then bite their ears off and choke them with

their own ears...

CAREY

Uh...

ANNE

While they're trying to get up? Like that?

CAREY

Well, no actually, though I like your train of thought. We could probably trade him for more land!

SHANE

What, are you serious? No, hell no---

Anne karate-kicks him.

ANNE

How do you mean, sir?

CAREY

Consider: This "Shane" (air quotes) is probably a very important human, to share control of this much land. But we have him imprisoned! So we can hold him for ransom.

ANNE

Ransom for what?

CAREY

Dorr, you naive fool. You didn't think we would stop at B357, did you? Right now, there are ant colonies literally feet away, that are ours for the taking! All we need to do is gain control of those rooms! And when we do, we will be more than a proud people, but an unstoppable empire! And the storied name of His Holiness King Elnuk XI will be known forever! Little children will be sat down on their poppy's knees and told about Elnuk of ages past, the invincible king who shot lightning bolts from his fingertips, and conquered the humans with the heavens on his side! Lightning bolts, Dorr! From my fingertips!

ANNE

Yeah, but who are we going to bargain

with?

CAREY

I beg your pardon?

ANNE

We don't know any other humans, sir.  
We have no one to hold for ransom.

CAREY

Dysentery! You're right.

ANNE

We should stick to pushing him out the window. At this rate, his nonstop moaning will alert someone before we're prepared for them.

SHANE

You guys know I have a Calc test in 3 hours, right? I know I told you, Carey. I know, because I also told you to let me sleep so I didn't pass out during the test. Do you know how hard it is to sleep when the circulation in your arms and legs is completely cut off? It's like trying to watch a movie while a beaver is clawing out your eyes.

Suddenly, there is a knock on the door.

ANNE

(quietly)

What do we do? Do we answer it?

CAREY

(quietly)

Don't worry about it. Just be calm, and act nonexistent.

Carey and Anne freeze, and don't make a move or sound. JESSE and CHANTAY can be heard yelling through the door:

JESSE (O.S.)

Hey, Carey? You in there? Chantay and I are gonna play Monopoly; you want in?

CHANTAY (O.S.)

I'm gonna be the dog. The dog is the cutest!

JESSE (O.S.)

Anne can play too! As long as she doesn't take all the purple properties again, because she did that last time and it's really annoying!

CAREY

(whispering)

It appears they are our friends.  
Perhaps we should just let them in.

ANNE

(whispering)

Yeah, but how do we explain Shane?

CHANTAY (O.S.)

Jesse, they're probably making out.

JESSE (O.S.)

Oh, right. Sorry if we disturbed you guys! We'll just deal you in whenever you finish, you know, doing whatever.

SHANE

Wait! Don't go! Carey's gone insane! Anne tied me to the bed, and now they want to kill me, or sell me into slavery, or something! Call the RA! Please don't leave me here, I have a test I need to take and they won't let me sleep!

Carey opens the door before he can say any more. Jesse and Chantay come in.

JESSE

Hey, you didn't have to let us in. I thought I heard someone screaming in here...

Jesse trails off when he sees Shane struggling, tied to his bed.

CAREY

Hello. Um...what's up?

CHANTAY

Hey Carey! What's happening? That's a cool watch, I like it, why is Shane tied to the bed?

SHANE

Why do you think I'm tied to the bed?

CHANTAY

I dunno? Because...um...(gasps) Oh!

(slowly smiles) Ohhhh....

ANNE

What? What "Ohhh"?

CHANTAY

Man, I'd always taken you guys for the missionary type, but this totally makes sense. That's so cool, that you guys have, you know, added an extra dimension to your relationship.

JESSE

I'm missing something.

CHANTAY

I don't know how you guys got Shane to be your sex slave, but more power to you. I love the curtains, too, it's a nice touch.

CAREY

Sex slave?

Suddenly, an idea comes to Carey.

CHANTAY

It's cool, you guys don't have to be embarrassed. Couples do bondage stuff, like, all the time.

JESSE

What? No. Carey and Anne don't do that stuff, do they?

CAREY

Oh, you would be surprised what stuff we do, my simian compatriot. My lovely mistress Anne and I are well versed in several forms of slavery, sexual and otherwise. You see, early this morning, Anne and I were fornicating, as is our custom, being humans. However, while we were doing it, my co-supervisor Shane wakes up, and says, "Say fellow, have you ever tried a menage-a-trois? And I replied, why no, I never have, but I'd be willing to give it a shot. So the three of us engaged in that for a while, and it was fairly pleasurable, but afterwards, Shane informed us what he really enjoyed was sadomasochism. Now, we tried to tell him he had a

math test in a few hours, and he should sleep, but it was clear he was quite riled up by now, so we agreed to finish him off by tying him to his bed and engaging in a bit of no-holds-barred torture. Really, just a routine morning, nothing at all out of the ordinary. Human hormones, right? What can you do? You know what I'm talking about.

CHANTAY

For sure, dude. See, I told you, Jesse! No need to be all weird about it.

SHANE

Don't listen to him! This man is hallucinating! He's telling you lies! He's---AAAAAUGGHH!!

Before he could yell more Anne picks up a nearby corkscrew and starts stabbing him with it, in different places. Shane just screams in pain.

ANNE

Yeah, you like that, don't you? You've been a bad boy. Very bad.

Jesse continues to stare as Shane keeps screaming. Fade out, end scene.

### **11:00 AM**

The students are sitting around the dorm room fairly casually. Some chill music is playing in the background. Shane has passed out by now, and there are streaks of blood running down his clothes. Carey is making something out of black construction paper, while Anne is covering the walls with duct tape. Chantay is laying down on the floor, and Jesse is sitting on the bed, just taking in the whole scene.

CHANTAY

Has anyone ever told you how amazing your ceiling is? It's like, you keep looking at it, and your eyes just start getting sucked into the center, and it's like it's alive, and sinking into you. I can just keep staring at it for hours -- wow, is that a yo-yo? I haven't had one of these in forever, it glows in the dark, that's so cool...

She trails off and starts playing with the yo-yo.

JESSE

(to Carey)

So...what are you making? Is that an arts and crafts project or something?

CAREY

Arts and crafts? Pathetic! This is a symbol of the glorious revolution I am about to bestow! Wait, what?

JESSE

Carey, are you feeling okay? Ever since that thing with Shane, you've been acting extremely weird. By the way....is Shane alright?

CAREY

Oh, do not worry about Shane. He just has to say the safety word and we'll release him.

JESSE

Really. Cause he kinda looks passed out.

CAREY

Doesn't he though? He's so melodramatic.

CHANTAY

You guys totally should have told me you were into three-ways. It's such an awesome way to get to know your friends. Because you never know. I mean, you never really know someone. Everyone is...well, it's like we're in bubbles. It's from...our bubble society. We make ourselves distant...with, um...capitalism. Capitalistic society, man.

JESSE

Listen, Carey, did you get a concussion or something? This whole thing is fishy.

CAREY

Nonsense! You are far too suspicious, monkey.

Carey finishes his black paper thing; it's an eyepatch. He puts

it on.

CAREY

This is excellent! Before, I was merely fearsome; now, I emanate sinister power!

CHANTAY

Wait, let me see!

Chantay pulls herself up.

CHANTAY

That's so amazing, Carey! It's like you're this, you know, amazing space pirate from some parallel dimension....Oh my god!

Chantay grabs Carey by his shoulders.

CHANTAY

Carey! You are...a fantastic vision! (whispered) From my mind!

CAREY

Well, thank you. The sentiment is very appreciated.

CHANTAY

You know, you totally should have told me you were into three-ways. It's such an awesome way to get to know your friends. Did I already say that?

Chantay starts touching Carey's face, and gently stroking his forehead. Then, she goes back to her yo-yo.

JESSE

Something's different, clearly..but what? I can't figure it out....wait, what are you doing, Anne?

Anne has been covering the wall with duct tape this entire scene.

ANNE

Me? I'm not doing anything! You know, I'm just putting this tape on the walls...as an added precaution.

JESSE

An added precaution for what?

ANNE

I don't know! Must you question



everything?

CAREY

Dorr, don't overreact.  
(whispering)  
You'll blow our cover.

JESSE

Who in God's name is Dorr?

CAREY

Er..well.....um...your mother!

ANNE

Good one, sir!

They high-five, as Jesse stands both confused and incensed, then start putting duct tape on the wall together.

JESSE

(loudly, but to himself)  
Ok, that's it!

Jesse whips out a tiny phaser looking gun.

JESSE

With this brain wave scanner, I can quickly and easily determine the ownership of a body through thorough analysis of a brain's electromagnetic waves strung through a DNA sampler. I carry it with me at all times, in case of alien invasion or a glitch in the Matrix. Now, lets find out who these so called friends of mine really are!

CAREY

(without looking up)  
You know, you're still talking at a normal volume. We can hear everything you're saying.

Jesse scans them, and gasps in shock.

JESSE

Just as I suspected! They're being controlled by megalomaniacal ants!

ANNE

What's he babbling about?

CAREY

I stopped paying attention. When we're done with the Invection Barrier,

we'll duct tape his mouth shut.

JESSE

I know what I must do!

Jesse runs, and trips on Chantay, who by now has tangled herself up in the yo-yo and can't move her arms. She wriggles over to Jesse.

CHANTAY

You know, we're so lucky to have such amazing friends. I think we take it for granted.

JESSE

Chantay, listen to me! We are both in grave danger, and in order to escape you're going to have to listen to me very carefully. Right now, Carey and Anne aren't our friends! They're being controlled...Chantay listen!

CHANTAY

No, I know, but there's a butterfly sitting on the windowsill, flapping it's wings. Butterfly, butterfly.....butter. Do you have any toast?

JESSE

Quiet! Have you not heard of the Insect accords of 1956? Long after he was presumed dead, FDR met with the leaders of various insect species in Area 52. Oh yes, there is an Area 52. Even more secret. The arachnids were satisfied with owning half of Bangladesh, but the ants..no no, they wanted more. They'd been plotting to become the dominant species for 4000 years, they sure as hell wouldn't give up now, no sir! But when FDR wouldn't give in to their demands, they altered his DNA...until he became JFK, and deliberately attacked the Bay of Pigs in order to placate the Ant confederacy! Are you following me?

CHANTAY

You know, you have really beautiful eyes. They are like infinite lakes of pure beauty...in your face.

JESSE

Um...

CHANTAY

Have you ever pierced your nipples and hooked them to someone else's pierced nipples? It's such a rush...like you have a Siamese twin, but you're having sex with him.

JESSE

Okay, we don't have time to discuss this. Lets just escape while we still can!

Jesse stands up, and starts dragging the tied up, oblivious Chantay towards the door.

ANNE

Hey, are you guys going somewhere?

Jesse turns, to see Carey and Anne pointing strange brown guns at them. Jesse stands frozen as Carey laughs maniacally. At the same time, and during the ensuing dialogue, Shane wakes up. He first tries to free himself, but fails. He figures out that Carey and Anne are distracted, and sees his cell phone just out of reach of his foot. After much trying, he manages to kick the phone to his head, and dial the RA's extension with his teeth.

JESSE

You can't do this! You'll never get away with it! You've gone mad with power!

CHANTAY

Wow, is that a new cell phone? I like the color.

CAREY

This is a gun especially formulated for our mission. The gun is made entirely out of ants. The bullets are made out of live red ants.

JESSE

You used your own people to build a weapon? That's sick! Haven't you heard of the Geneva convention? Ants are not exempt from international law, you know. They'll try you as a war criminal!

CAREY

The UN, is it? I know of no such body. (laughs loudly)

ANNE

Your holiness---

CAREY

Not now, Dorr. I'm currently  
occupied. (even louder laughter.)

ANNE

Sir the loud human is trying to call  
his leader!

CAREY

What?

SHANE

Selena! It's Shane! My roommate's  
holding me hostage, please save me  
AAAAAARRRGGGHHHH!!!!

Shane starts screaming again when Anne starts stabbing him with  
the corkscrew again.

JESSE

Couldn't you have just shot him?

CAREY

Come now. Even you have to admit this  
is much more entertaining.

CHANTAY

Is this making anybody else thirsty?  
Cause I could totally go for some  
Jamba Juice right now.

Fade out as Anne continues to prod Shane, to more screams.

### **11:30 AM**

Jesse and Chantay are now tied to chairs. Chantay is in a desk  
chair, slowly spinning herself around. Shane hasn't moved; he's  
quietly sobbing on his bed. SELENA is now standing in the middle  
of the room, across from Carey and Anne, who are holding her at  
gunpoint.

SELENA

So, I can see this is kind of a touchy  
situation. Have you been roommates  
since the beginning of the year?

CAREY

I suppose so, yes.

SELENA

It's understandable. Conflicts between roommates can escalate easily. Students have very different ideas of boundaries, and sometimes it's hard to adapt. But as your RA, I'm confident I can iron all these problems out without having to resort to room switching. Let's start with you, Carey. Why do you feel the need to tie up Shane and your friends? Are you feeling violated? Is holding us hostage like this your way of saying, "I'm vulnerable, and I need people with me right now?"

CAREY

Do you know, I've never quite looked at it that way? You are truly insightful. Sometimes...oh, this is hard...it's like I'm trapped. Like I'm in a tiny hole, and I just need to break out! And it's so hard----

JESSE

For the love of God! Miss, I don't think you understand. Carey and Anne have been taken over by ant warlords who are conspiring to overthrow the human race.

ANNE

Have not!

SHANE

Shut up! Everybody shut up! Shut up! Shut up!

SELENA

Ok, Shane, let's move to you. Have you done something to upset Carey? Is this possibly a reaction to inconsiderate behavior?

SHANE

No, I swear no!

SELENA

I'm not accusing you! I'm just saying it's possible that maybe you're being inconsiderate and don't even realize it. I'm looking at my records, and I see you have had issues with roommates in the past. Last year, there were complaints of loudness, staying up too

late and making noise, drunkenness, drug usage, drug dealing, and a general aversion to hygiene. I don't want to sound like a square, but maybe if you cut out the PCP, and replaced it with a little TLC, you would be acting more thoughtfully.

JESSE

That's way beyond the point! Even if he was a little too loud or messy, isn't this an overreaction? I mean, he's taken hostages and holding us all at gunpoint! These imposters are trying to take over the room, and kill the real Carey and Shane!

CAREY

That's untrue! We're trying to take over the room and throw Carey and Shane a surprise party, for being so fantastic.

JESSE

Really. Because it looks like you're trying to kill them.

SELENA

Quiet, please! Especially you, Jesse. Look, please try to understand. I'm a first year RA. I can't call the police, because the university will find out, and I'll be fired for sure for letting this happen. But that's alright, because we don't need to get the police involved! I believe in you guys, and I think we can resolve our problems with love, and understanding!

CHANTAY

Yay! Let's do it you guys! I'm feeling the love! Selena, you are so hot right now. I don't know what it is, you're just glowing, you know? I'm not lesbo or anything, right? I just really want to touch you right now.

CAREY

Dorr, I believe the new girl has the right idea. If we cooperate, maybe we'll get some important resources to further our goals, if you catch my

drift.

Anne nods.

CAREY

Selena, you're right. I never wanted to be a criminal like this! But sometimes, life is so confusing, and you find yourself doing things you never thought yourself capable of doing. I guess I forgot that there are people on my side, willing to help me.

SELENA

Yes! All of your friends are here! You aren't alone; just remember that! Does this mean I don't have to do the thing where you both throw eggs to each other without letting them break to learn about teamwork? Cause I brought all these eggs.

CHANTAY

Can I have some? I love eggs.

Selena gives Chantay the box of eggs. She eats one.

CHANTAY

Mmmmmmm...eggs! I haven't eaten in like 3 days, cause I ran out of meals. Do you know that eggs are really high in...high in...wow, I totally forgot what I was gonna say! Don't you hate that?

CAREY

I'm willing to let some of you go without hurting you. However, I will require something in return.

JESSE

Don't do it! He's going to ask you to----

ALL

Shut up, Jesse!

SELENA

Carey, we're all ears. What do you need?

CAREY

Nothing really important. Just a few

dozen sheets of steel, a soldering iron, a couple bottles of epoxy glue, and an industrial strength flamethrower.

SELENA

Done and done. There's a Home Depot down the street. Wow, you don't know how relieved I am to just be able to settle this between us. So, can we all go?

CAREY

No, just you and Shane. The rest of you can go a little later.

JESSE

For God's sakes, he's gonna kill us! Why are you giving him a flamethrower?

SELENA

Ok. Just let Shane go now, as a sign of good faith. I think he's suffered enough.

Carey unties Shane. Shane just screams and dives out the window, without opening it first.

ANNE

Wow. You'd think the guy could take a little pain.

CAREY

Dorr, do you realize the humans are sitting in the palm of our hand? We can do anything! Finally, the ants are in control! MUWAHAHAHA! BWAHAHAHAHAHA!

Carey just keeps laughing like that for a while. Jesse gestures for Chantay and Selena to gather quickly.

JESSE

I have a plan to outwit him. But I'm gonna need help from both of you.

CHANTAY

Of course. Jesse has a plan. Jesse has a plan. What is it with you and plans?

JESSE

When have I has a plan before this?



SELENA

Jesse, I really can't stand you at all. But I also don't want to die. What's your plan?

CHANTAY

Selena, you're such a take charge person. I really envy that. It's such a rare quality these days. Could you move your head a little closer to my face? I just want to smell your hair. Your necklace is shiny. Did you get it at Urban? I want it.

Carey continues laughing menacingly. Fade out, end scene.

### **12:30 AM**

The situation is much the same. Selena is gone. Anne is pacing about.

ANNE

Man, I am starving! This mission's going a little past schedule, and I hadn't figured out lunch plans yet.

JESSE

Did you guys really think you would take over this room in 3 hours? That's unrealistic by any standard.

ANNE

Jesse, remember the deal we made? You don't say another word, and I won't take another finger?

JESSE

I'll be good.

CAREY

Just remember Dorr, once our mission is complete we will have food to last scores of generations!

ANNE

I know, your holiness. I've heard the speech. I wrote it. But until then, isn't there some week-old Chinese food somewhere I can have a bit of? Just to tide me over until, you know, the scores of generations.

CAREY

I highly doubt it. Do you see any  
Chinamen here?

Selena comes back in, holding a bag with the soldering iron,  
sheet metal, glue and flamethrower.

CAREY

Finally! Did you get the supplies?

SELENA

This should be everything you need.  
Am I free to go now?

CAREY

Yes, yes, sure.

Selena starts to walk out. While Carey and Anne are inspecting  
the bag she discreetly hands Jesse a small yellow box, and a  
knife. Selena opens the door.

CAREY

Linger a moment, monkey. We'll let  
you go in a bit; first, we'd like to  
make sure this equipment works.

JESSE

Oh come on! You just said an hour ago  
that---

ANNE

Jesse! Word? Finger?

SELENA

I'll stay a bit longer. Come on guys!  
Remember, we're trying to show  
solidarity with Carey?

JESSE & CHANTAY

(half-heartedly)

Wooh! Solidarity.

CAREY

Dorr, begin to solder the window shut.  
Once that is sealed off, we will do  
the door, and then our defenses will  
be secure enough that we can begin  
Phase 3.

SELENA

Carey, you can't just solder a window  
closed. All room changes must be  
verified with the housing office.

JESSE

Hey, come on! Solidarity, right?

Anne glares at Jesse, points to her mouth, points to her finger.  
Jesse gets the point.

Anne starts to solder the window shut. Carey is supervising, his back turned. As this is going on, Jesse takes the knife, and tries to cut Chantay's ropes, with no success. Eventually getting frustrated, he tries to cut his own ropes, with the same results. As Jesse is trying to free himself, Chantay easily slips out of the ropes, and slides out of her chair. She runs over to where Carey and Anne are working.

CHANTAY

You guys, I just got the most amazing idea. Listen...omygod, you're gonna think this is so great, but just listen...okay, so we're all gonna hold hands like this. (Chantay grabs one of each of their hands.) Then, I'm gonna look right into Carey's eyes. And Carey's gonna look right into my eyes. And then, Anne...wait, I screwed up! Ok, so Carey's gonna look right into my eyes. And I'm gonna look right into Anne's eyes. And Anne's gonna look right into Carey's eyes! And then, we're gonna all be connected with looking! And it's gonna be a total circle of trust, and we'll all be just super in touch with ourselves, and this space, and how we...interlock...continuously. Is that toothpaste? Cause you know that feeling when your mouth is all dirty, even though you just keep cleaning it with your tongue, you know? Do we have any eggs left? I'm hungry.

While Chantay is doing all this, Selena notices Jesse's struggles, and frees him. They draw a chalk line on the floor, seperating Carey & Anne and the door.

ANNE

You know, I think the eggs are gone, but didn't we tie you up? How are you walking around?

CAREY

I did tell you to use a square knot, Dorr. Your knots always come loose.

ANNE

Why would I use a square knot? Am I  
on an 18th century fishing schooner?  
No one uses square knots anymore!

CAREY

Why are we arguing? Lets tie her back  
up.

They turn around, and see the chalk line.

ANNE

Oh shit!

CAREY

They drew a chalk line! I can't stand  
that foul stuff.

ANNE

What do we do now? The door is on the  
other side of the chalk! There's no  
way out! We're trapped!

CAREY

Well, for one thing, we can just go  
around the line. It's only 8 feet  
long.

ANNE

8 feet! That will take days to cross!  
We don't have that kind of time!

CAREY

It would take days if we were ant  
size, yes. But we're over a thousand  
times as big.

ANNE

What's your point?

CAREY

So it should only take a couple  
seconds.

ANNE

But can we take that risk? If you're  
wrong, we'll surely die!

CAREY

Ok, Jesus! I'll just summon the ant  
army then.

ANNE

Thank you! Man, you and your suicide

tactics.

CAREY

Ant Army! I summon you! Kill  
everybody except us! MUWAHAHA!!

From under the bed trickles out a huge mass of ants, crawling  
towards Jesse, Chantay and Selena.

SELENA

Oh no, the Ant Army! What do  
we....wait, an Ant Army? How can a  
bunch of ants kill us?

As soon as she says this, Selena is pulled to the ground by the  
ants at her feet.

SELENA

Oh god! What are they doing? Oh my  
god! They're crawling in my sinal  
cavity! Oh crap! They're eating my  
flesh! Not very fast, but it really  
hurts! They're going to suffocate me!  
Somebody do something!

JESSE

(on the floor near her)  
I'm trying! I'm picking them off but  
there are too many of them!

Suddenly, the drywall next to Carey and Anne cracks open, a fist  
flies through it, and Shane crawls through the hole. He looks  
crazed, and his clothes are ripped. He emits a primal scream,  
and grabs Carey and Anne and starts to maniacally attack them.  
After some struggle, they both pass out, and the ant army  
retreats. Jesse, Chantay and Selena run over and restrain him,  
and pull him off of Carey and Anne. Shane is hyperventilating,  
but soon he calms down.

SELENA

Shane, that was amazing! How did you  
do that?

SHANE

The whole experience this morning was  
fucked up, and I needed to calm down.  
So I cut out the TLC, and replaced it  
with a little PCP. I can't feel pain  
right now....or anything.

JESSE

Well, thank God everyone is safe from  
the insect threat.

SELENA

Shut up, Jesse.

Carey and Anne come to.

CAREY

Ow...my head hurts. Is it already 8:00? It feels like I got no sleep last night...hey, why are you guys here?

ANNE

Man, it's 12:45? I completely missed Psych! I have only one absence left in that class.

JESSE

The ant warlords must have retreated to their colony!

CHANTAY

You really don't remember anything from the last couple hours? That happens to me all the time! It's like we're blackout buddies! Don't worry, you didn't miss anything important. Just lots of screaming and fighting and stupid stuff. Hey, do you want to see this sweet yo-yo I got? It glows in the dark!

CAREY

Yes, Chantay. Let's all look at your yo=yo!

Everybody crowds around on the floor, laughing together. Fade out, end scene.

### **THE NEXT DAY**

The ant crowd is back in the mall, muttering amongst themselves. Dorr walks onto the podium, and the lights go up. There are no cheers.

DORR

My fellow ants, today is not a day of celebration. We were defeated, I'm sorry to report. The humans held off our attack, and there were more casualties than we expected. I'd like to issue an apology, on behalf of the ant empirical administration, for this lapse in judgment and poor planning.

We will not endanger your confidence again. Now, we could have learned a lesson from this attack, about accepting one's place in society, and not acting in haste. But your leader has other ideas! Ladies and gentlemen, His Holiness King Elnuk XI!

Huge cheers arise from the crowd. The screams of the ants he walks on can be heard as he saunters to the podium.

ELNUK

(to the screaming ants)

Do be quiet. I will kill you, you know. I'm megalomaniacal like that.

ELNUK

People of Colony HG714! Yes, we were set back! Yes, we were defeated by a small and scrappy band of humans! Yes, we wasted all the resources of the colony for years to come on a poorly planned gambit for power that only really benefited myself, but is that going to stop us?

Applause.

ELNUK

We will regenerate! We can rebuild; we have the technology! We don't know how long it will take, but somewhere, somehow, we will take B357 from the humans! Thank you and goodnight!

Huge applause as Elnuk strolls offstage. Fade out, end scene, curtain call.